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Decision Evaluation System
Towards Sustainable Decision-Making





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"If I were given one hour to solve the planet I will spend 59 minutes understanding the problem and one minute solving."

Albert Einstein

„It is beyond a doubt that all our knowledge begins with experience.“

Immanuel Kant

"Each problem that I solved became a pattern which served afterwards to solve other problems."

René Descartes

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Abstract

The industrial revolution, electronics, medicines and the internet are affecting our planet, causing pollution (air, soil and water), resource depletion and climate change. Governments and non-government organizations are pushing stakeholders to devote increasing attention to the environment by establishing rules and guidelines. In order to meet those rules and guidelines, decision-makers are using specific computer-based systems. Decision support systems (DSS) and environmental management information systems (EMIS) play a major role here in delivering information about processes and operations of organizations.

However, the role of these systems is limited to initiating the decision-making act without any support while making decisions. They neglect the archiving, tracking, recommendation and evaluation of decisions based on their sustainability impact (Rezgui and Marx Gómez, 2017).

A decision support system (DSS) is a set of tools, techniques and methodologies that supports and improves the decision-making process. It includes the use of available data, documents, models and knowledge by a computerized system to process the raw data and turn it into useful knowledge within the appropriate context. Many research papers written about DSS and EMIS were explored to recognize the status and the limitations in the field. The literature review process was based on the systematic literature review approach, showing that the aim of the early DSS in the 1960s was to make the transactional data (billing, payroll, inventory, etc.) available to the managers for decision-making purposes (Arnott and Pervan, 2005a). Subsequently, (Gorry and Morton, 1989) extended this aim to support managerial decision-making that is structured or unstructured. Fakeeh considered that the existing DSS can be categorized into seven families: data-driven DSS, communication-driven DSS, group DSS, document-driven DSS, model-driven DSS, knowledge-driven DSS and web-based DSS (Fakeeh, 2015). These families were mapped with the main expected capabilities from a DSS. In order to evaluate the actual situation in the domain of decision support systems, the recommendation of Phillips-Wren et al. (2009) in their work on intelligent DSS was used. They annotate that the evaluation of a DSS should be made among others based on the understanding and use of Simon's phases in the decision-making process (Herbert A Simon, 1960). None of the actual DSS cover all outcomes and especially the ability to deliver information about the decision itself (decision-maker information, decision date, decision objectives, goals and targets, deadline to achieve the expected goals, etc.) in addition to the evaluation based on the sustainability impact. According to the Simon's decision-making process, the DSS should enable decision-makers to learn from their past choices. It is important to obtain information about the decision itself through storing, tracking, recommendation and evaluating decisions to enable this learning.

In this dissertation, the aim is to enhance the quality of decisions in terms of sustainability using a new concept called Decisions Evaluation System (DES). The design and implementation of a decision evaluation system based on sustainability is planned. The three evaluations pillars : ecological, economic and social should be calculated for each decision. This system should enable stakeholders to track, evaluate, recommend and comment on decisions. Moreover, it should comply with the understanding and use of Simon's phases in the decision-making process (Herbert A Simon, 1960). This novel system should improve more corporate sustainability through Decision-Making.

Zusammenfassung

Die industrielle Revolution, Elektronik, Medizin und das Internet beeinflussen unseren Planeten und tragen einen wesentlichen Teil zur Umweltverschmutzung (Luft, Boden und Wasser), zum Ressourcenverknappung und Klimawandel bei. Weltweit encouragieren Regierungen und Organisationen alle Aktoren, der Umwelt zunehmende Aufmerksamkeit zu schenken, indem sie Regeln und Richtlinien aufstellen. Um diese zu erfüllen, verwenden Entscheidungsträger spezifische computergestützte Systeme. Entscheidungsunterstützungssysteme (DSS) und Betriebliche Umweltinformationssysteme (EMIS) spielen hier eine zentrale Rolle bei der Bereitstellung von Informationen über Prozesse und Abläufe von Organisationen.

Die Hauptrolle dieser Systeme beschränkt sich jedoch darauf, den Entscheidungsakt vorzubereiten ohne jegliche Unterstützung während und nach der Entscheidung. Sie vernachlässigen die Archivierung, Verfolgung, Empfehlung und Bewertung von Entscheidungen basierend auf ihrer Auswirkungen auf die Nachhaltigkeit (Rezgui und Marx Gómez, 2017).

Ein Entscheidungsunterstützungssystem beinhaltet eine Sammlung von Tools, Techniken und Methoden, die den Entscheidungs- und Planungsprozess unterstützen und verbessern. Es umfasst die Verwendung verfügbaren Daten, Dokumente, Modelle und Kenntnisse durch ein computergestütztes System, um die Rohdaten zu verarbeiten und sie in nützlichem Wissen im geeigneten Kontext zu verarbeiten. Viele Forschungsarbeiten über DSS und EMIS wurden untersucht, um den Status und die Einschränkungen in diesem Bereich zu erkennen. Das Literatur-Review wurde basierend auf dem systematischen Literatur-Review Prozess durchgeführt. Es zeigte, dass das Ziel des frühen DSS in den 1960er Jahren darin bestand, die Transaktionsdaten (Abrechnung, Gehaltsabrechnung, Inventur usw.) den Managern zur Entscheidungsfindung zur Verfügung zu stellen (Arnott und Pervan, 2005a). In der Folge erweiterten Gorry und Morton (1989) dieses Ziel, um strukturierte und/oder unstrukturierte Managemententscheidungen zu unterstützen. Fakeeh war der Meinung, dass bestehende DSS in sieben Familien / Gruppen eingeteilt werden können: datengetriebenes DSS, kommunikationsgesteuertes DSS, Gruppe DSS, dokumentengetriebenes DSS, modellgetriebenes DSS, wissensgesteuertes DSS und webbasiertes DSS (Fakeeh, 2015). Diese Familien /Gruppen wurden mit den wichtigsten erwarteten Fähigkeiten eines DSS kartiert. Um die aktuelle Situation im Bereich der Entscheidungsunterstützungssysteme zu bewerten, wurde die Empfehlung von Phillips-Wren et al. (2009) in ihrer Arbeit an intelligenten DSS verwendet. Sie kommentieren, dass die Bewertung eines DSS unter anderem auf dem Verständnis und der Verwendung der Simon-Phasen im Entscheidungsprozess basieren sollte (Herbert A. Simon, 1960). Keines der aktuellen DSS deckt alle Phasen ab. Es mangelt ihnen an der Fähigkeit, Informationen über die Entscheidung selbst (Entscheidungsträgerinformationen, Datum, Ziele, Zielstellungen und Zielvorgaben, Frist zur Erreichung der erwarteten Ziele usw.) zu liefern

und ignorieren die Bewertung im Hinblick auf die Auswirkungen auf die Nachhaltigkeit. Nach dem Entscheidungsprozess von Simon sollte ein DSS den Entscheidungsträgern ermöglichen, aus ihren Entscheidungen in der Vergangenheit zu lernen. Es ist wichtig, Informationen über die Entscheidung selbst zu erhalten, indem Entscheidungen gespeichert, nachverfolgt, empfohlen und bewertet werden, um dieses Lernen zu ermöglichen.

Ziel dieser Dissertation ist es, die Entscheidungsqualität (Operationale und teilweise Taktische Entscheidungen) in Bezug auf die Nachhaltigkeit mit einem neuen Konzept, dem Entscheidungsbewertungssystem (DES), zu verbessern. Die Konzeption und Implementierung eines auf Nachhaltigkeit ausgerichteten Entscheidungssystems ist geplant. Die drei Bewertungssäulen, ökologisch - ökonomisch - sozial, sollten für jeden Entscheidungsprozess einkalkuliert werden. Stakeholdern soll dieses System ermöglichen, Entscheidungen zu verfolgen, zu bewerten, zu empfehlen und zu kommentieren. Es fußt auf dem Verständnis und der Verwendung von Simons Phasen im Entscheidungsprozess (Herbert A. Simon, 1960). Dieses neuartige System wird zu einer entscheidenden Verbesserung der nachhaltigen Entscheidungsfindung in Organisationen beitragen.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABI	Adaptive Business Intelligence
ADR	Action Design Research
AI	Artificial Intelligence
BI	Business Intelligence
BPI	Business Process Intelligence
BPM	Business Process Management
BPMN	Business Process Model And Notation
BSC	Balanced Scorecards
CBD	Case-Based Reasoning
CDSS	Clinical Decision Support Systems
CO ¹	Carbon Monoxide
CO ²	Carbon Dioxide
DAO	Data Access Object
DES	Decision Evaluation System
DSISR	Design Science In Information Systems Research
DSR	Design Science Research
DSRM	Design Science Research Methodology
DSS	Decision Support Systems
DTM	Data Mart
DWH	Data Warehouse
EDSS	Environmental Decision Support Systems
EIS	Executive Information Systems
ELPI	Ecological Performance Indicators
EMIS	Environmental Management Information Systems
ENPI	Economical Performance Indicators
EPI	Environmental Performance Indicator
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
ETL	Extract-Transform-Load
EVIS	Environmental Information Systems
FESLM	Framework Evaluating Sustainable Land Management
FR	Functional Requirement
GDMP	Green Decision-Making Process
GSS	Group Support Systems
GUI	Graphical User Interface
HOLAP	Hybrid Online Analytical Processing

ICT	Information And Communications Technologies
IDSS	Intelligent Decision Support Systems
IS	Information Science
ISRF	Information System Research Framework
KM	Knowledge Management
KMDSS	Knowledge Management-Based Decision Support Systems
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MDA	Multi-Dimensional Analytical
MIS	Management Information Systems
MOLAP	Multidimensional Online Analytical Processing
NO	Nitrogen Oxide
NSS	Negotiation Support Systems
OLAP	Online Analytical Processing
OLTP	Online Transaction Processing
OpBI	Operational Business Intelligence
PDSS	Personal Decision Support Systems
PM	Process Mining
POC	Proof Of Concept
PWH	Process Warehouse
QMS	Quality Management System
ROLAP	Relational Online Analytical Processing
SD	Sustainability Development
SO ²	Sulfur Dioxide
SPI	Social Performance Indicators
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound